

Procedure: IACUC-21
Date: September 21, 2023
Enabled by: AWR/PHS/Guide
Supersedes: December 2, 2021

**UC Davis
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

Title: *Provision of Veterinary Care by Veterinarians that are not members of the UC Davis centralized support Veterinary Teams*

I. **Purpose:**

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) must ensure that adequate veterinary care is provided for research animals. The term “adequate veterinary care” is defined by the Federal USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the ILAR *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM). It is not limited to caring for sick animals, but includes programs of disease detection and surveillance, prevention, post-operative care, husbandry, and a variety of other related issues.

Regulatory agencies are concerned about potential conflicts of interest when a veterinarian researcher provides veterinary care for their own research animals or when veterinarians without specialized training in the support of research and teaching animals are providing primary care.

II. **Policy:**

The Attending Veterinarian (AV), as the Veterinarian of Record for the campus under the AWA and Public Health Service (PHS) Assurance, has final responsibility to ensure that campus programs for veterinary care are adequate. Veterinary care is provided to animals at UC Davis used for teaching and research through the AV, and under the delegated authority of Campus Veterinary Services (CVS), the California National Primate Research Center (CNPRC), the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) Large Animal Field Service (for livestock used in agricultural teaching and research), VMTH Specialty Practice (CAPE for Raptor Center, other services for Clinical Trials), Gourley Clinical Teaching Facility, Mouse Biology Program, and VMTRC Tulare. Veterinarians of Record are generally based on the housing location of animals.

A Principal Investigator (PI) wishing to either provide their own veterinary care or utilize a veterinarian outside of these delegated veterinary units is discouraged. To gain approval the PI must provide to the IACUC rationale for requesting a deviation from one of the veterinary care providers listed above.

III. **Procedure:**

1. In addition to providing written rationale, PIs must complete section 11 in the IACUC protocol form which includes information such as methods to diagnose and control diseases and provision of veterinary care on weekends and holidays. Each investigator must meet with the UC Davis AV and develop a written memorandum of understanding (MOU) that addresses the following:
 - The selected veterinarian must notify the AV or Veterinary designee by telephone or electronic mail within 24 hours of any significant animal health concerns.
 - The AV or Veterinary designee has the authority to immediately suspend an activity that results in significant animal welfare or health concerns. The AV or Veterinary designee will immediately notify the IACUC of any such circumstances.

Failure to adhere to these policies will result in loss of the privilege of the selected veterinarian to provide veterinary care to research and/or teaching animals.

IV. **Resources:**

1. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>
2. ILAR, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
<http://nap.edu/12910>
3. PHS Policy
<https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm>
4. American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine "Position Statement on Adequate Veterinary Care"
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5113890/>